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(54) **Protecting a surface of a nickel-base article with a corrosion-resistant aluminum-alloy layer**

(57) A surface of a nickel-base article such as an internal surface (36) of a gas turbine airfoil (22) is protected with a protective layer (40) of aluminum and at least one other element. To form the protective layer (40), a donor alloy is contacted to the protected surface of the article, and simultaneously the article and the donor alloy are heated to a coating temperature that is greater than about 0.7 of the absolute solidus temperature of the donor alloy but is such that the donor alloy remains in the form of a condensed phase contacting the protected surface of the article. The donor alloy is thereafter interdiffused into the protected surface of the article.

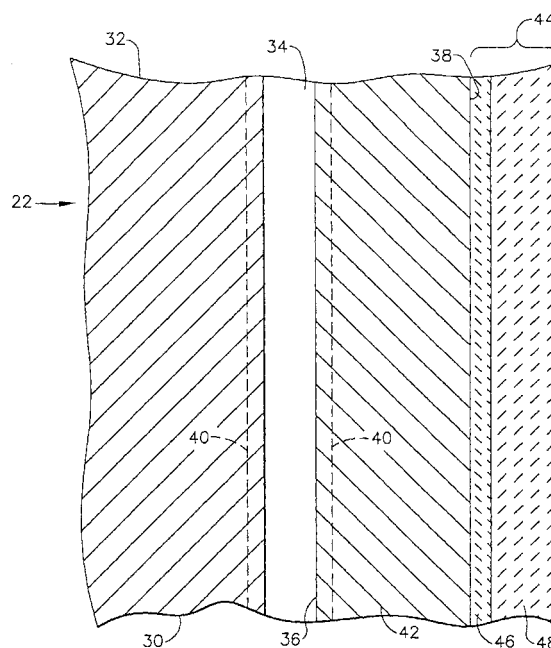


FIG. 2

EP 1 199 377 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 01 30 8794

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			C23C
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 01 30 8794

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